

# THE ASYLUM

Quarterly Journal of the  
Numismatic Bibliomania Society

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Volume XVIII, No. 1

Winter 2000

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"If a man is even moderately enthusiastic, and has actually collected a sufficient number of books to make a foundation of a library as a specific subject, he, by general understanding among his co-sufferers, has been inoculated with the disease and has a case of *Bibliomania*, the severity of which increases or decreases in direct proportion to the patient's enthusiasm and self-sacrifice to attain the end he has in view. Friends of the patient look upon him possibly with sympathy, but always with an eye of pity, and members of his family speak of his trouble with indignation and sometimes shame, if his excesses in purchasing rare books, even though entirely within his subject, encroach in any way upon the normal activities of the family and upon the expenses connected therewith."

WILLIAM L. CLEMENTS  
1861-1934



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# The Asylum

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## President's Message

by Wayne Homren

Welcome to the first issue of *The Asylum* for the year 2000.

Included with this issue is an envelope for payment of your yearly dues. Our membership fee has remained unchanged for at least ten years, and is one of the better bargains in numismatics. Please return your payment promptly – only paid-up members will receive the remaining issues for this year.

Please note: If you've already sent in your year 2000 dues, don't worry that there's been a mistake – these envelopes are included with every copy mailed.

These are interesting times for the hobby of numismatics. In the United States, we are seeing a resurgence in interest in coin collecting among the general public. This is due to two factors. The first is the circulating commemorative state quarter series. The second is the new "gold" Sacajawea dollar coin. We can see the evidence first-hand at local and national coin shows, where kids and adults alike are flooding the aisles in search of coins and coin supplies in numbers not seen since the 1960's.

Will this resurgence of interest boost the ranks of numismatic bibliophiles further down the road? Certainly, the more people

interested in numismatics in general, the more people have the opportunity to become aware of the great bounty of information and entertainment available from numismatic literature.

What can we do to further expose new collectors to our sideline? The Internet is one method, and through the NBS web site and E-Sylum mailing list, we're reaching new people every week. Numismatic literature presentations at major coin shows are another method, and NBS has had a presence at recent ANA and FUN shows, and is making plans for this summer's ANA in Philadelphia.

A final important venue for reaching collectors is covered in detail in Joel Orosz's Printer's Devil column: "Where Have All The Core References Gone?" In the article, he correctly notes that all of the major references on American numismatic literature have been out of print for some time, and are difficult to obtain. His article is a call to arms for numismatic bibliophiles and publishers– we would be missing a marvelous opportunity to reach and develop future bibliophiles if these key resources are not made more readily available. Please let us know your thoughts on the matter.

## Editorial

by E. Tomlinson Fort

After my first issue as editor of this esteemed journal I feel like quoting Pompey the Great after he lost the Battle of Pharsalus: "Oops." Pompey has been quoted many times since then. However, after my last editorial when I said that I would make mistakes I did not mean on the front cover! My sincerest apologies must go to Joel Orosz, who was the author of the Printer's Devil article awarding the "Shammies." (Hey Joel,

after this mistake is there any chance of me getting a "Shammie" to hang over the fireplace?).

This issue is a bit later than I had hoped. This is both due to changes at my "real" job as well as the birth of my daughter Annamaria. Fortunately, the material for the next issue is at hand and it should be following within the next month. If not, maybe I can get two "Shammies" from Joel.

## New Members

Bernarol Brochier, St. Francis,  
Guadeloupe, French West  
Indies

Marc D. Stern, Pleasantville,  
N.Y.

Steven Epstein, Miami, Fl.

Mark Ferguson, Oshkosh, Wis.

Harry T. Kubasek, Middletown,  
N.Y.

Jim McGuigan, North Versailles,  
Pa.

Adrian Salinas, Monterray,  
Mexico

David J. Stone, Jr. Phoenix,  
Ariz

Vicken Vegparian, Tom's River,  
N.J.

Robert Dunfield, Ventura, Ca.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Mr. Fort,

I just received a copy of the 1999 Winter Edition of *The Asylum*. I noticed the item about Frank in the nursing home and I wish to give you some corrected info for the next issue.

He was in the hospital last July and in the nursing home for three weeks last August, but since then he has been in his

own home and doing fairly well. He does get around with a walker and a cane and his eyes prevent him from reading; otherwise we go day by day. So you might let his friends know a card or phone call would be welcome (and many of his friends do stop by).

With best wishes,  
Laurese Byrd Katen.

# The Development of the Coin Album

## Part Five

### by David W. Lange

Previous installments of this series explored Whitman's line of coin folders, both the familiar blue editions and some less remembered series. Part Five will examine the company's line of albums, which now dates back some forty years.

As the coin hobby matured during the 1950s, a demand developed for coin albums which were more sophisticated than the simple folders which had dominated the market since the '30s. Advanced collectors had long been using the National Albums produced by Wayte Raymond, and his death in 1956 didn't prevent the manufacture and marketing of these products by others under the title *American Album*.

Whatever their virtues, the Raymond albums looked old fashioned and were clumsy to use. When the Coin and Currency Institute launched a new series of albums under the banner "Library of Coins" in 1958, these became an immediate success and prompted Whitman into responding with its own new product.

Whitman's "Bookshelf" line of albums, though copyrighted 1960, were first offered in February of the following year via double-page advertisements in *The Numismatist* and other publications. These ads heralded "The Finest Quality Coin Albums

Ever Made . . ."

They were handsome, with their pages staple bound within a booklike cover (what Whitman described as "stub-hinge construction"). Each page was of very thick cardboard ("dura-board") overlaid with royal blue leatherette paper printed in gold. The covers were of similar appearance. The royal blue being reminiscent of the early Whitman folders, which by this time had evolved into navy blue. Titles were printed in a Roman font on both the front cover and the spine, the latter also including a catalog number printed horizontally. The front cover was further decorated with an attractive pattern of intersecting diamonds, each containing a star. Clear acetate slides secured each row of coins within their respective pages. For large coins, each slide covered just one row, while two or three rows of smaller coins could be held by a single slide.

To further compete with the popular Library of Coins albums, the Bookshelf line included a listing of dates and mintage figures in black on the inside front cover along with a sketchy history of the series. This paste-down was a slightly lighter shade of blue to contrast with the outside cover and the pages. The inside back cover presented a listing of available titles.

Also in response to the Library of Coins albums, the Whitman line included a wide variety of titles. In addition to the obvious series from the 20th Century, albums were offered for Seated Liberty coins from half dimes through half dollars, Capped Bust Halves, half cents and large cents. Though the Bookshelf albums for coppers accommodated only one coin per date, while their more sophisticated competitor featured all of the then-current "Red Book varieties."

The Whitman folders for Canadian coins had sold reasonably well following their introduction in the early 1950s. Therefore, these titles were also included in the Bookshelf line from the outset.

Whitman hoped that British coins would become popular with American collectors. In 1961 it added several such titles to its line of folders and albums. For the Bookshelf albums, the only series which were offered by date were the bronze farthings, halfpennies and pennies commencing 1860. The few remaining British titles were exclusively for type collecting beginning with the coinage of Queen Victoria in 1837.

Despite a marketing campaign that included a handy guide book, sales of the British titles were disappointing. The same proved true in 1963 for the Mexican type set album and in the following year for type sets of Panamanian and Philippine coins. Even worse was the

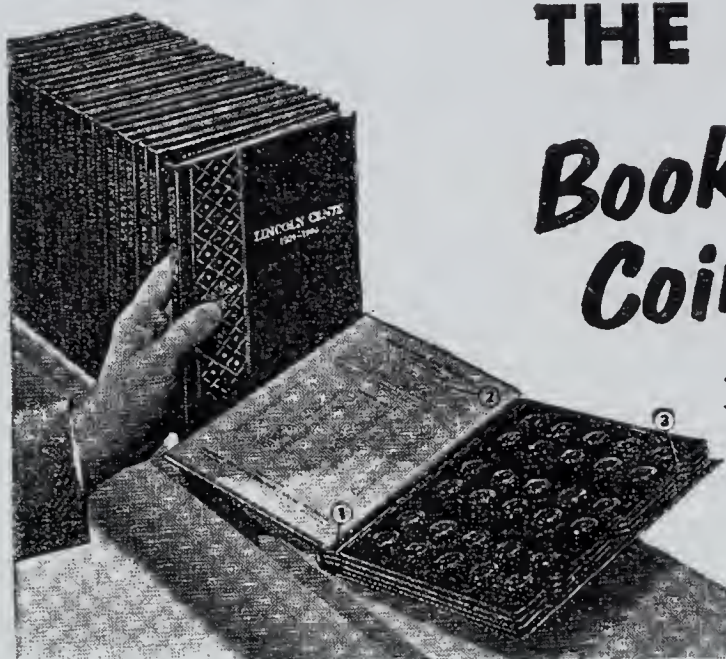
response in 1965 to the pair of Australian type set albums.

The fault was not entirely Whitman's since the coin hobby took a nosedive toward the end of 1964. The early 1960s had proved to be the highwater mark for popular collecting by date and mint, and this segment of the hobby has never regained its earlier levels of activity. Things remained slow for the next two or three years, and most manufacturers of coin albums dropped by the wayside.

Whitman, the most prominent player in this field, remained but with a scaled-down operation. The production of all but the most popular titles ceased, and albums for most early USA and foreign coins are known only in this first edition.

These are easily identified by the distinctive logo in use from their inception through 1967. It consists of a gold eagle that was essentially taken from the Great Seal of the USA. Upon the eagle's chest is an oval badge reading Whitman.

A few minor changes occurred during the course of this first edition reflecting concurrent changes in the coinage. After the Franklin Half Dollar series ended in 1963, this termination date was added to the title. About the same time a new album was added for Kennedy Half Dollars. Early examples of the Washington Quarter Dollar album are labeled "1932-", while those manufactured after the introduction of clad coinage are marked "1932-1964." This



# THE BEAUTIFUL Bookshelf Coin Albums

the World's  
Most Distinctive  
Coin Albums

Genuine board covers,  
royal blue with gold-  
stamped titles front and  
binding edge.

SIZE: 7" x 8¾"

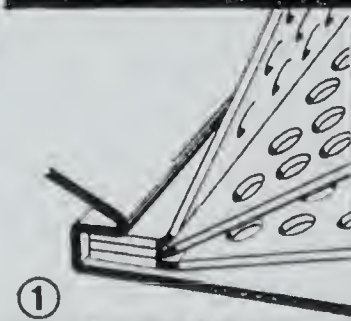
2 Page Albums	\$2.00
3 Page Albums	\$2.75
4 Page Albums	\$3.50



This symbol is the "hallmark" of excellence in the numismatic field. When you see the Whitman eagle you can be assured of enduring quality. The newest Whitman creation, the Bookshelf Coin Albums, proudly display this symbol of prestige and excellence.

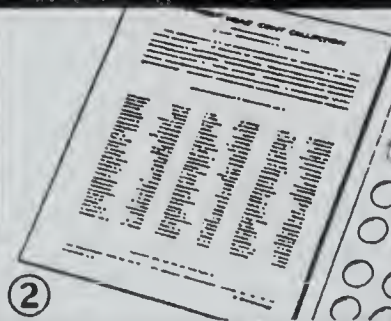
Whitman Bookshelf Coin Albums will cover all U. S. coins plus a series for Canadian coins.

**FEATURES LIKE THESE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR  
WHITMAN'S ENVIABLE REPUTATION FOR QUALITY:**



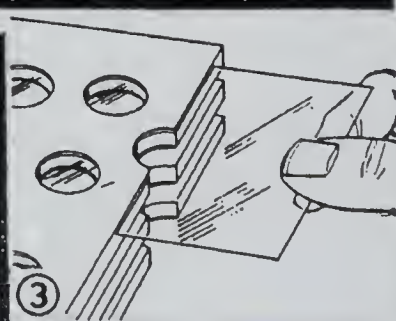
#### ① EXCLUSIVE STUB-HINGE CONSTRUCTION

Rugged and yet flexible, stub-hinge construction prevents stress and strain. Pages are securely hinged, open wide and lie flat.



#### ② HISTORICAL INFORMATION AND MINT RECORDS

The inside front cover of each volume gives interesting detailed information about the coins it houses. There is also a complete mint record together with a mint mark reference.



#### ③ SEE COINS FROM BOTH SIDES

Pages are sturdy duro-board with crystal-clear acetate slides to give two-side visibility and protection. Thumb notches make it easy to "open windows" for insertion or removal of coins.

**WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY**

prompted the introduction of new albums for the clad pieces. Though these didn't debut until the second edition. (The terminology of "first edition," "second edition," etc. is mine alone and was not used by Whitman to describe its products. No mention of any changes was ever made in its advertising or on the albums themselves.)

During the first edition period (1961–67) Whitman accepted a number of commissions for custom-designed albums. These are similar in construction and general appearance to the regular line, but they feature very specialized titles.

A complete listing follows this text, but some are worth noting here. Among the custom albums still encountered at coin shops and shows are the three series ordered by the Presidential Art Medal Company. (Medals enjoyed a speculative vogue during the early-mid 1960s, only to end up being worth little more than their bullion value today.)

Beginning in 1962, this company produced three series of medals honoring the presidents of the USA, the various states and the signers of the Declaration of Independence. These are beautiful medals in high relief, so high in fact that the plastic slides were bulged outward by them.

The Whitman Bookshelf albums for these medals, while not rare in absolute terms, are among the ones most seldom found in decent condition. The great weight of the medals, their short-lived popularity and the

aforementioned bulging conspired to wear out these albums very quickly. When found in nice condition, they are extremely attractive, since they feature the Presidential Art logo and customized graphics.

Albums of the second edition were actually produced concurrently with those of the first, and they are distinguished by a single feature. Beginning around 1965, Whitman adopted a rating system for all of its folders and albums.

What was being rated was the degree of difficulty in completing a series of coins. The easiest sets to complete, such as Lincoln Cents from 1941 onward, bore a solid star and were catalogued as "Basic" collections. Those a bit more challenging, such as Liberty Standing Quarters, were marked with a skeletal star and designated "Secondary." "Advanced" collections carried no star and are thus indistinguishable from first edition albums except for the fact that their inside back covers include this rating system within the listing of available titles.

There is one feature of the second edition titles that does offer an additional, though quite subtle, distinction. This is the change in cover color from royal blue to navy blue, which brought the albums into conformity with the folders. The second edition was produced as late as 1972, several years after the introduction of the third, probably as a means of using up already printed component parts. Such thrift is a charming but sometimes

confusing factor in attributing Whitman folders and albums.

New with the second edition were titles that commenced with the introduction of clad coinage. When the manufacture of proof coins shifted to San Francisco, creating a new series of proof-only "S" mint issues, these titles were offered both with and without the proofs. This satisfied the needs of those seeking absolute completeness, as well as those who were collecting strictly from circulation.

Since this development occurred in 1968, just as the third edition albums were being introduced, the only second edition title I've seen that includes the proof-only coins is the one for Roosevelt Dimes. It must be considered a rarity, as similar albums for other series are found only within the third edition.

When Western Publishing bought Whitman around 1967, a new logo was adopted for all of the Whitman products. It featured a skeletal globe with an oval badge superimposed at the center reading Whitman. This logo remained in use right through Whitman's purchase by Golden Books in the mid-1990s and may be retained now that the company is part of St. Martin's Press.

Third edition albums are easily distinguished by this new logo. In the initial printing, the badge was solid, but a modified version having a skeletal oval was adopted very quickly. Albums from the first printing are very rare, and I know of just a few titles in this format.

Third edition albums also have somewhat slicker covers that lack the rich graining used previously. As the listing of titles declined in response to the slower coin market, their space on the inside back cover was filled in part by a listing of Whitman guide books.

Another feature of the newer albums is that they reflect the gradually declining quality of Whitman's products during the 1970s. As paper products rose in cost, the company must have begun cutting corners. The pages became thinner, the bindings less durable and the holes more sloppily cut. Slightly frayed holes and loose page coverings are common in these albums, and they're far less desirable for storing coins than those of the first edition.

Rising costs were also reflected in the price increases experienced by these albums during the 17 years that they were marketed. The price of each album was always predetermined by the number of pages it contained. When first offered in 1961, a two-page album was priced at \$2.00, a three-page album at \$2.75 and those having four pages at \$3.50. Since these albums were rarely advertised after the 1960s, I don't have any published figures for their later prices, though I have found a number of third edition albums bearing their original price stickers. I believe their final prices to have been \$3.75, \$4.75 and \$5.75, respectively. I remember paying these figures during the early-mid 1970s.

With the advent of the third edition, all of the titles for Seated Liberty coins were dropped, along with all foreign titles except Canadian. Of the early USA titles, only half cents, large cents and Bust Halves remained in production.

New titles reflected changing trends within the coin hobby. Silver art bars were a big fad during 1972-73, and an album for these was added. Also new was the *Around-The-World Coin Collection* which featured two volumes. An album was added for Eisenhower Dollars in 1972, but this line of albums didn't survive to see the Anthony Dollar. One area of specialization that survived throughout was token collecting, though the exact titles of these albums did vary over time.

The January 1979 issue of *The Numismatist* included a press release from the Whitman Coin Products division of Western Publishing. This announced the introduction of a new line of albums called the "Classic." The old Library of Coins line had gone out of production, and Whitman's main competitor was Dansco.

Reflecting this threat, the Whitman Classic albums incorporated the most important features of the Dansco "Supreme" albums. In place of the old stub-hinge construction, which sometimes resulted in the covers detaching from the pages, Whitman used the now-common hinge-post binding. In addition to solving the cover detachment problem, this offered the option

of removing and adding pages as needed to keep current issues up to date. Eighteen basic titles were offered at first, with a couple dozen more having been added since that time. The Whitman Classic remains in production to the current day, with a new title for the 50-states quarter program having just been announced.

Graphically, the Classic is easily recognized as a Whitman product. The covers and pages feature the familiar leatherette finish. The same color scheme of gold printing on navy blue is employed. A single logo consisting of a federal shield has been employed throughout the twenty-plus years of production. Gold transfer type is available for adding new dates or for customizing one's albums.

With the exception of half cents and large cents, no albums are available for series earlier than those overlapping the 19th and 20th Centuries. Several type coin albums are offered, along with date series of recent Canadian coins. Newer titles include those for casino tokens and the American Eagle series of gold and silver bullion coins. An album for Whitman's Red Book and Blue Book souvenir medals (issued 1986-97) will probably go out of production, since this series was discontinued by Golden Books and is not likely to be revived by St. Martin's Press.

Some varieties have been created when a series was transitioned into a second volume, such as happened for Lincoln Cents in 1996. The first volume

(catalog #9112) exists with both titles "1909-" and "1909-1995."

Classic albums are generally quite appealing, though they lack the heavy construction of the earlier Bookshelf albums. The cardboard is much thinner, and heavy coins such as silver dollars will cause the pages to sag a bit. Another feature I find disappointing is that the company will not cut custom pages to make a series end evenly. In other words, the same number and configuration of holes appears on each page, even though this causes some series to end in mid-page. The older line of albums left no vacant holes, and this attribute is sorely missed.

Priced initially between \$5.25 and \$9.25, these albums have risen in cost to where most retail between \$18.00 and \$30.00.

I have always favored both

the appearance and quality of Bookshelf albums over that of their successors and competing products. I've found also that I can still buy unused Bookshelf albums on the secondary market for less than the price of new Classic albums. For those rare instances in which I still place coins within albums, I always use the Whitman Bookshelf line. This is simply a personal choice, and I collect all of these products in their entirety as part of my coin album hobby.

The following list includes all titles known to me for each of the three Whitman Bookshelf editions described above. There is just a single edition of the Whitman Classic. The albums whose titles have not been confirmed are marked (†).

## WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY - RACINE, WI BOOKSHELF

(All editions have blue leatherette covers with gold lettering and are 7" wide x 9" high).

*FIRST EDITION - royal blue, with eagle logo and no rating star, produced circa 1961-67*

<i>Number</i>	<i>Title</i>
9400	<i>Half Cents 1793-1857</i>
9401	<i>Large Cents 1793-1857</i>
9402	<i>Indian Cents 1856-1909</i>
9405	<i>Lincoln Cents 1909-1940</i>
9406	<i>Lincoln Cents 1941-</i>
9441	<i>Cents Miscellaneous</i>
9436	<i>Complete Sets Of 2c, 3c, Shield 5c, 20c Pieces</i>
9407	<i>Liberty Nickels 1883-1912</i>
9408	<i>Buffalo Nickels 1913-1938</i>
9410	<i>Jefferson Nickels 1938-</i>
9410	<i>Jefferson Nickels 1938-1964</i>
9442	<i>Nickels Miscellaneous</i>
9411	<i>Liberty Seated Half Dimes 1837-1973</i>

- 9437 *Liberty Seated Dimes 1837-1891*
- 9412 *Liberty Dimes 1892-1916*
- 9413 *Mercury Dimes 1916-1945*
- 9414 *Roosevelt Dimes 1946-*
- 9443 *Dimes Miscellaneous*
- 9439 *Liberty Seated Quarters 1838-1865*
- 9440 *Liberty Seated Quarters 1866-1891*
- 9416 *Liberty Head Quarters 1892-1916*
- 9417 *Liberty Standing Quarters 1916-1930*
- 9418 *Washington Quarters 1932-*
- 9418 *Washington Quarters 1932-1964*
- 9444 *Quarters Miscellaneous*
- 9415 *Bust Type Halves 1807-1839*
- 9447 *Liberty Seated Halves 1839-1863*
- 9448 *Liberty Seated Halves 1864-1891*
- 9420 *Liberty Head Halves 1892-1906*
- 9421 *Liberty Head Halves 1907-1915*
- 9423 *Liberty Walking Halves 1916-1940*
- 9424 *Liberty Walking Halves 1941-1947*
- 9424 *Liberty Walking Halves 1940-1947 (Misprinted Cover And Spine)*
- 9425 *Franklin Halves 1948-*
- 9425 *Franklin Halves 1948-1963*
- 9422 *John F. Kennedy Halves 1964-*
- 9445 *Half Dollars Miscellaneous (†)*
- 9427 *Morgan Dollars 1878-1886*
- 9428 *Morgan Dollars 1887-1896*
- 9429 *Morgan Dollars 1897-1921*
- 9430 *Peace Dollars 1921-1935*
- 9426 *Trade Dollars 1873-1883*
- 9446 *Dollars Miscellaneous*
- 9434 *United States Type Set Small Coins*
- 9435 *United States Type Set Large Coins*
- 9453 *U. S. Gold Type Set 1 Dollar Through 20 Dollars*
- 9433 *Commemorative Type Set*
- 9449 *Modern Mint Set Collection*
- 9450 *Modern Proof Set Collection*
- 9432 *Year Sets*
- 9452 *Civil War Tokens*
- 9455 *Miscellaneous Tokens*
- 9456 *Miscellaneous Medals*

## Canada

- 9500 *Canadian Large Cents 1858-1920*
- 9501 *Canadian Small Cents 1920-*
- 9502 *Canadian Five-Cent Silver 1858-1921*
- 9503 *Canadian Nickels 1922-*
- 9504 *Canadian Dimes 1858-*
- 9505 *Canadian 20 And 25 Cents 1858-1920*
- 9506 *Canadian Quarters 1921-*
- 9507 *Canadian Quarters Miscellaneous*
- 9508 *Canadian Halves 1870-1936*
- 9509 *Canadian Halves 1937-*

- 9510 *Canadian Halves Miscellaneous*
- 9511 *Canadian Dollars 1935-*
- 9529 *Canadian Dollars 1966-*
- 9512 *Canadian Dollars Miscellaneous*
- 9513 *Canadian Type Set Collection 1858-1952*
- 9513 *Canadian Type Set Collection*
- 9515 *Canadian Mint Set Collection*

### **Maritime Provinces**

- 9514 *Newfoundland Type Collection*

### **Great Britain**

- 9530 *British Farthings 1860-1901*
- 9531 *British Farthings 1902-1956*
- 9532 *British Halfpennies 1860-1901*
- 9533 *British Halfpennies 1902-1936*
- 9534 *British Halfpennies 1937-*
- 9535 *British Pennies 1860-1901*
- 9536 *British Pennies 1902-1936*
- 9537 *British Pennies 1937-*
- 9516 *Great Britain Minor Type Set*
- 9517 *Great Britain Silver Type Set*
- 9520 *Great Britain Type Set Victoria 1837-1901*

### **Australia**

- 9527 *Australian Type Collection Bronze And Decimal Coins*
- 9528 *Australian Type Collection Silver Coins*

### **Mexico**

- 9524 *Mexican Type Set Collection 1905-*

### **Panama**

- 9518 *Panama Type Collection*

### **Philippines**

- 9526 *Philippine Type Set Collection Spanish 1864-1897 United States 1903-1947 Republic 1947-*

### **World**

- 9454 *Crowns Of The World*

### **Custom Titles**

- I-100 *Israel Agorot-Pound Series I 1960-1968 (Produced For The R. P. Nielsen Company)*
- I-200 *Israel Commemoratives Volume 1 (Produced For The R. P. Nielsen Company)*
- 6501b *Dollar Gaming Tokens Minted By The Franklin Mint For Nevada Gaming Casinos 1965*
- *Seattle World's Fair Century 21 Exposition Official Medals*
- *Presidential Art Medals Volume 1 (Produced For The Presidential Art Medal Company)*
- *Presidential Art Medals Volume 2 (Produced For The Presidential Art Medal Company)*
- *Statehood Art Medals Volume 1 (Produced For The Presidential Art Medal Company)*

- *Statehood Art Medals Volume 2* (Produced For The Presidential Art Medal Company)
- *Declaration Signers Art Medals Volume 1* (Produced For The Presidential Art Medal Company)
- *Declaration Signers Art Medals Volume 2* (Produced For The Presidential Art Medal Company)
- *Declaration Signers Art Medals Volume 3* (Produced For The Presidential Art Medal Company)

*Second Edition - Navy Blue, With Eagle Logo And Rating Star, Produced Circa 1965-72*

- 9402 *Indian Cents 1856-1909*
- 9405 *Lincoln Cents 1909-1940*
- 9406 *Lincoln Cents 1941-*
- 9407 *Liberty Nickels 1883-1912 (†)*
- 9408 *Buffalo Nickels 1913-1938*
- 9410 *Jefferson Nickels 1938-1964*
- 9409 *Jefferson Nickels 1965-*
- 9413 *Mercury Dimes 1916-1945*
- 9414 *Roosevelt Dimes 1946-*
- 9587 *Roosevelt Dimes 1946- Including Proof-Only Issues*
- 9417 *Liberty Standing Quarters 1916-1930*
- 9418 *Washington Quarters 1932-1964*
- 9419 *Washington Quarters 1965-*
- 9423 *Liberty Walking Halves 1916-1940*
- 9424 *Liberty Walking Halves 1941-1947*
- 9425 *Franklin Halves 1948-1963*
- 9422 *John F. Kennedy Halves 1964-*
- 9427 *Morgan Dollars 1878-1886*
- 9428 *Morgan Dollars 1887-1896*
- 9429 *Morgan Dollars 1897-1921*
- 9430 *Peace Dollars 1921-1935*

*Third Edition - Navy Blue, With Globe Logo And Rating Star, Produced Circa 1967-78 (First Printing, With "Whitman" Set Within A Solid Gold Oval, Circa 1967)*

- 9401 *Large Cents 1793-1857*
- 9413 *Mercury Dimes 1916-1945*
- 9425 *Franklin Halves 1948-1963*
- 9428 *Morgan Dollars 1887-1896*
- 9430 *Peace Dollars 1921-1935*

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- 9400 *Half Cents 1793-1857*
- 9401 *Large Cents 1793-1857*
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- 9512 *Canadian Dollars Miscellaneous (†)*
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- 9515 *Canadian Mint Set Collection (†)*

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- 9110 *Large Cents 1793-1857*
- 9111 *Indian Cents 1856-1909*
- 9112 *Lincoln Cents 1909-*
- 9112 *Lincoln Cents 1909-1995*
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- 9114 *Liberty Head Nickels 1883-1912*
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- 9119 *Roosevelt Dimes 1946-*
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## Who's Who in Numismatics (You Can't Judge a Book By It's Title) by Pete Smith

In 1971 Lee Martin announced that he was collecting information for a work to be entitled *Who's Who in Numismatics* which would be published by Hewitt Brothers. I have been trying to track down a rumored early draft. I thought it might have important biographical information that would supplement my research. In 1994 I corresponded with Martin who reported that his research never got very far and the book was never published.

The 1994 disposition of the Katen library promised treasures for collectors. With the catalog for the first sale of their library (sale #76) came the listing for their preceding sale (#75). A one line description caught my attention. It read "73. McGouldrick: *Who's Who in Numis.* 1974. 54pp. 5.00."

I did not remember seeing this item before. None of my friends had suggested it as a source for my research. The book must be very rare, dearly held or both. It is not listed in recent bibliographies by Clain-Stefanelli, Davis or Thomas. I thought the book might be a good addition to my reference library. I placed a bid above estimate and was pleased to learn my bid was successful.

The full title on the cover is *The Coin Dealer Directory Who's*

*Who in Numismatics.* Pages 1-3 include an "Advertisers Index." Listed in approximately alphabetical order are the names of 200 advertisers. Unlike most indexes, there were no page numbers. They would be helpful since listings on subsequent pages are in no particular order.

An article in the December 26, 1973, issue of *Coin World* announced publication of the book. Author McGouldrick said, "[I]t seems there are dealers coming out of the woodwork. Some will stay in business. Some will not. ... Deal with people who depend on numismatics for their living." His book was offered as a guide for the dealers who were established and reliable.

Many business directories require payment for space and are distributed only to subscribers. I suspect *The Coin Dealer Directory* is an example of that type of directory. Apparently McGouldrick's criteria for a dealer who was established and reliable was one whose check did not bounce.

The book is a listing of dealers under fifteen classifications. Apparently dealers who bought space were listed in the classifications of their choice with some listed more than once. Adam J. Cool was listed under Clubs and Organizations, Coin Supplies,

Medals and Tokens, and Silver Bars. McGouldrick was listed in his directory under the categories of Proof Coins, Silver Dollars U.S. and United States Coins.

I recognized names of a few dealers that I believe were significant in numismatics in 1974. These include Kamal Awash, Bebee's Inc., Bowers and Ruddy, Grover Criswell, and Hank Spangenberger. There were others who I would have expected to find in *Who's Who* in 1974. Among dealers not included were Jerry Cohen, Ben Douglas, Harry Forman, John J. Ford, Leon Hendrickson, Art Kagin, Jim Kelly, Abe Kosoff, Abner Kreisberg, Julian Leidman, Lester Merkin, Jess Peters, Norman Shultz, Harvey Stack and Charles Wormser. Perhaps McGouldrick did not consider them reliable.

Courts have determined that the "Who's Who" name is no longer the proprietary right of a single publisher. I have done research in more than a dozen references that include "Who's Who" in the title. All the others have biographical information. *Who's Who in Numismatics* has none.

It does have name, address and numismatic specialties. A typical listing covers one tenth of a page. Some listings were double the standard size. There are six such double listings for Italcambio, Inc. and five for MintAmerica, Inc. I note that Mr. Liliano Maso was listed as vice president for Italcambio and chief executive officer for

MintAmerica. His listings take the equivalent space of 22 single listings. Based on the space in the directory, these would appear to be the leading firms in the country.

I recall ads for Italcambio in *Coin World* offering "Money That is Art, Art That is Money." A typical ad from the early 1970's showed the "Naked Maja" (1970 Equatorial Guinea 100 Peseta) with full frontal nudity.

The book has a section for Clubs and Organizations. Included in the list are the Fort Pierce (Fla.) Coin Club, Indian Hill Coin Club, Lorain (Oh.) Numismatic Association, and Thief River Falls (Minn.) Coin Club. Among the clubs were the Italcambio Collectors Society and Mint America Collectors Society. They shared an address and P.O. box in Miami Florida. Not included on the list of clubs are the American Numismatic Association, American Numismatic Society, Civil War Token Society, Early American Coppers or Token and Medal Society.

Other numismatic dealer directories have been published. *The 1982 Numismatic Trade Directory* was announced in July 1981. Listings cost each dealer \$3.50. I have not seen it. *The Official Whitman (Coin Dealer Directory)* goes back to about 1988. *The Coin Dealer Newsletter* published a *Numismatic Dealer Directory* in at least 1990 and 1993. These directories did not promise any biographical information and did not provide any.

McGouldrick's book is identified as First Printing, First Edition. I would be interested to learn if there were later printings. I would also be curious to know how many copies were printed. I

wonder if it was distributed beyond those who purchased space. I also wonder if anyone else like me bought a copy expecting something more than what they received.

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## The Printer's Devil: Where Have All The Core References Gone?

By Joel J. Orosz

Everything appears to be coming up roses for the hobby of numismatic bibliomania. The Numismatic Bibliomania Society has an activist board and a state-of-the-art printer. The State Quarters program is drawing new collectors into the coin hobby and a solid percentage of these are gravitating toward bibliomania. Nothing, it seems, can slow the growth of the literature-loving clan. Nothing, that is, except books. Ironically, it is the unavailability of key references that may derail, or at least badly slow, the growth of the NBS.

For those who are interested in American numismatic literature, there are a small number of core reference books that are simply indispensable resources. One can collect without them, of course, just as one can drive a car without first taking a driver's education course, but the long-run result of both are likely to be very similar. It is safe to say that every serious veteran collector of American numismatic literature has dog-eared copies of each of these titles in his or her library. It is also safe to say that each new collector needs to have one of each.

The problem is that almost every one of them is out of print. They must be purchased, if they

can be found at all, in the second-hand or antiquarian market, and at prices that continue to go higher. Their unavailability threatens to nip in the bud the growth of numismatic bibliomania.

There is no disagreement about the titles of these essential references. The first is Emmanuel Joseph Attinelli's *Numisgraphics*, a comprehensive listing of virtually every auction catalog, book, periodical, and ephemeral publication on the subject of numismatics published in the United States through 1875. Original copies of *Numisgraphics*, which made its debut in 1876, are prohibitively rare, and even the 1976 Quarterman reprint is no longer readily available. When a copy comes on the market, the cost is apt to approach \$100, and steady demand will likely continue to inflate that price.

John W. Adams' *United States Numismatic Literature*, Volumes 1 and 2, provide an in-depth examination of the catalogues emitted by the major coin dealers of the 19th century (Volume 1), and the 20th (Volume 2). Each catalog is analyzed as to quality of content, and Adams introduces each dealer with an informative bio-

graphical sketch. Volume 1, published in 1982, has long been out of print, and Volume 2, published in 1990, will soon follow. Both volumes were published in editions of just 500, and are fine examples of the bookbinder's craft, so they were three-figure items when they first came out. The continuing demand is driving prices higher on those infrequent occasions when they appear on the secondary market.

Martin Gengerke's *American Numismatic Auctions* is an exhaustive compendium of every catalog with numismatic content ever issued in the United States, more than 13,000 in all. The first edition appeared in 1984; seven more have followed, with the most recent appearing in 1990. Certain editions also list catalogs in chronological order, and by consignor. The eighth and final edition was sold out about the time that Bill Clinton entered the White House. Although it appears with some frequency in book auctions, it is always snapped up quickly, and usually at a higher price than the one which sold previously.

Charles Davis' *American Numismatic Literature* (1992), is a record of prices realized at auction for selected books, catalogues, periodicals, and ephemera for the period from 1980 to 1991. Although the prices recorded are now mainly a matter of historical interest, the author's annotations are extremely informative, and descriptions of distinguishing characteristics of the items sold make the volume useful for

provenance research, as well. The collector can also get a sense of how rare a contemplated purchase may be by seeing how many times it was offered at auction between 1980 and 1991. Although the author may have an odd copy or two left, *American Numismatic Literature* is, for all practical purposes, out of print. It appears but infrequently in the secondary market, and goes anything but cheaply when it does.

In addition to these references, others could be added. Pete Smith's *American Numismatic Biographies* (1992); Remy Bourne's *American Numismatic Periodicals, 1860-1960* (1990); and Frank and Laurese Katen's "Coin World Book Edition," a bibliography published in the 1977 edition of the *Coin World Almanac*. Again, these are, one and all, out of print.

It is clear what effect these books had upon the hobby of numismatic bibliomania. In 1975, the number of serious numismatic bibliophiles could be convened in a decent-sized living room. By 1995, their numbers ranked in the hundreds. Other factors helped fuel the growth, of course, but the availability of essential reference sources was a prerequisite to significant expansion of the hobby.

It is also clear what effect the unavailability of basic reference sources is likely to have upon newcomers to the hobby. They will be handicapped by the inaccessibility of needed information, and will probably chafe at the

problems that it causes for them. If the experience of coin collectors provides any guide, they will probably balk at paying what they consider to be high prices for references. Caught in the trap of needing the information, but being unable or unwilling to pay for it, many are likely to become discouraged and leave the hobby.

Here, then, is the Lord's own work for an enterprising numismatic publisher to embrace: A core references reprinting program. In the best of all possible worlds, the reprinting would be done only after each reference was revised, for each contains a handful of errors and some few omissions. It would be ideal, as well, if scholarly prefatory material could be inserted, explaining the historical and bibliographical significance of the volume in question.

This world, however, stubbornly refuses to be the best of all possible spheres. It would take years to identify and correct errors, to poll collectors for pieces in their collections that are "not in ...," and to commission thoughtful and well-researched prefatory articles. By the time all of this could be accomplished, a lot of new collectors would have long since grown discouraged and decamped for other hobbies.

This would argue, then, for doing a "quick and dirty" facsimile edition of each of the core references, which would admittedly

not be an updating or an improvement, but which would quickly fill the knowledge void. Perhaps such a series could be produced inexpensively on CD-ROM.

Your columnist would favor a combination of both approaches: a "quick and dirty" publication series to meet immediate demand, and a more substantial and enduring hard-copy series, printed on acid-free paper, that would correct errors, include previously omitted items (with both corrections and additions clearly marked as such), and add informed commentary. This combination would satisfy both our need for instant references, and for enduring preservation of state-of-the-art knowledge.

What would be the consequences of doing nothing? It seems safe to predict that the core references would continue to appear on the secondary market, but their appearances would be at randomly spaced intervals. They would probably command consistently high prices, thus crowding many budding collectors out of the market. The unavailability of these references would act like a tourniquet around the hobby's neck, choking off the free flow of vital information. It would be ironic, indeed, if future historians were to pass this judgement upon numismatic bibliophiles at the beginning of the new millennium: "For the want of some books, their hobby was lost."

# News From the Net

by Pete Smith

By February 2000, The E-Sylum reached 278 readers. To get on the mailing list send your e-mail address to Wayne Homren at whomren@coinlibrary.com. Items discussed below appeared early in 2000.

## Garrett Archives

The numismatic archives of the Garrett family has been donated to the American Numismatic Society in New York City.

The ANS also received the numismatic library of Charles A. Hersh, a specialist in Roman Republican coinage and coinage of the Macedonian kings.

## ANS Library Catalogue

The American Numismatic Society library catalogue has been converted to machine readable records and will be available on CD-ROM. It is anticipated that it will be available at the ANS website.

## Mystery 1804 Dollar

The *Coin World* issue of January 31, 2000, had the following ad, "\$25,000 Reward for the location and legitimate recovery of my 1804 silver dollar." Said to be stolen from the owner's home, it was described as having extensive circulation wear and three initials cut into the surface.

The revelation of a previously

unknown 1804 dollar might be the "numismatic discovery of the (new) century" if it was legitimate. Since that is highly unlikely, The E-Sylum speculated that a scam was likely. Commenting on recent reproductions from the Gallery Mint, it was suggested that the three initials might be "COP" or "OPY."

## Karoleff Column

Brad Karoleff an occasional contributor to the E-Sylum, and new contributor to *Coin World*. His "Designs of the Times" column features early silver coinage. *Coin World* promoted Karoleff's column with two exposures of the identical column in their opening issue of January 17, 2000. Editor William T. Gibbs wrote it was a "computer-generated production error."

## Mallis Death Reported

George Mallis, co-author with Leroy VanAllen, of *The Comprehensive Catalogue and Encyclopedia of United States Morgan and Peace Silver Dollars*, died January 1, 2000, at age 84.

## Book Releases

B. Karoleff and P. Fricke announced the recent release of the seventh edition of *Bust Half Quotes*.

J. Ineson's *Paper Currency of the Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902* has been published by Spink.



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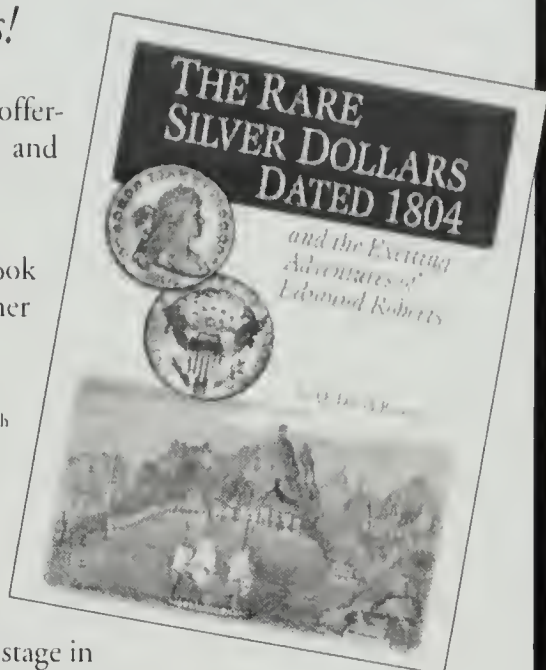
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